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SUBJECT Investigation of Immigration Quota Anomalies

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1. On 16 December 1948, Commissioner Engracio Q. Fabre and Senator Fernando Lopez were called to the Department of Justice for a secret initial hearing before Judge Primitivo Natividad. Judge Natividad had been appointed by the government to investigate the alleged immigration quota racket. [REDACTED] 25X1A2g
2. Senator Lopez opened the discussion by assuring Fabre that his interest in the case was in no way directed personally against the Commissioner, but that he wished to clear his name and to bring to light irregularities which he felt existed in the allotment of quota numbers to the Chinese. Fabre listened with polite skepticism and then asked the Senator to explain the fifteen days of scathing accusations made against him by the Manila Chronicle, a Lopez-owned publication. Senator Lopez replied that he had not been aware of any such newspaper campaign.
3. Commissioner Fabre then reminded Lopez of a letter which the Senator had written to him at the start of the case. This letter to Fabre stated that he (Lopez) had in his possession a note from a very high ranking government official which authorized Lopez to obtain two quota numbers. Commissioner Fabre asked Lopez to reveal the name of the official who had written the note. At first Lopez refused, but later admitted that the writer's initials were J.A. Commissioner Fabre was not satisfied and demanded the full name. Senator Lopez reluctantly acknowledged that the note in question had been signed by Senate President Jose Avelino. Fabre recognized a weak link in the Senator's remarks and asked him how he obtained such authorization from Avelino. Lopez's reply was not satisfactory but he stated that he had intended when he received the note to sell the quota numbers for the usual amount and to give the money to some charitable institution. At Fabre's insistence Judge Natividad instructed Lopez to deliver the note to the court. Upon adjournment, both Lopez and Fabre agreed to maintain the nature of their conversation secret.

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4. After leaving the Department of Justice, Fabre visited Senate President Avelino and informed him that Lopez was going to deliver the note to the court. Avelino was considerably upset and said that, though he could see that Fabre might be assisted thereby, it would certainly put him in a bad spot. Avelino added that if he were consulted by Judge Natividad he would state that Senator Fernando Lopez had requested authorization from him in order to obtain his share of Chinese quota numbers.

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